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| FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM | Application Number | 09/678579 |
| | Filing Date | October 3, 2000 |
| | First Named Inventor | Japuntich, Daniel A. |
| | Art Unit | 3743 |
| | Examiner Name | Aaron J. Lewis |
| Fax: 703-872-9306 | Attorney Docket Number | 48317US027 |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 13 | | |
| Date: May 3, 2005 | Attorney for Applicant: Karl G. Hanson | |

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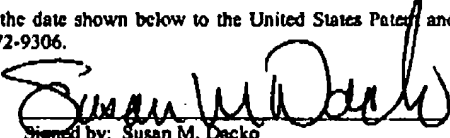
Case No.: 48317US027

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: JAPUNTICH, DANIEL A.
Application No.: 09/678579 Group Art Unit: 3743
Filed: October 3, 2000 Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis
Title: FIBROUS FILTRATION FACE MASK HAVING A NEW
UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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| May 3, 2005 Date |  Signed by: Susan M. Decko |

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the continuing duty of candor and good faith that is to be demonstrated before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, applicants submit a copy of another Answer in the civil litigation between the 3M Company and the 3M Innovative Properties Company ("3M") and Moldex-Metric, Inc. In this lawsuit, the defendant, Moldex-Metric, Inc. has filed an Answer to a third Complaint filed by 3M. In so doing, Moldex has filed counter-claims for a declaratory judgment of noninfringement and invalidity of U.S. Patent RE37,974 to Bowers, U.S. Patent 6,843,248 to Japuntich et al., and U.S. Patent 6,854,463 to Japuntich et al. Moldex contends that each of these patents are invalid under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103. Moldex also asserts that all patents are invalid for "containing a specification and claims which do not meet one or more of the requirements of 35 USC § 112, i.e., written description, enablement, best mode, and definiteness."

Please contact applicants' attorney if the Examiner desires more information regarding the defenses raised by each of the defendants. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that this item has been considered.

Application No.: 09/678579

Case No.: 48317US027

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

May 3, 2005

Date

By: 

Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900

Telephone No.: (651) 736-7776

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

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|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) Page 1 of 1 | Application Number | 09/678579 |
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| | Art Unit | 3743 |
| | Examiner Name | Aaron J. Lewis |
| | Attorney Case Number | 48317US027 |

| U.S. Patent Documents | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Exam. Init.* | Cite No. | Document Number | | Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Doc. Number | Kind Code (if known) | | | |
| | A1 | US- | | | | |
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| Foreign Patent Documents | | | | | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENTS | | | |
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| Exam. Init.* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | Translation (Check if yes) |
| | C1 | Moldex's Answer to Third Amended Complaint and Counterclaims (3M Company and 3M Innovative Properties Company v. Moldex-Metric, Inc., Civil Action No. 03-5292 MJD/JGL, United States District Court for the District of Minnesota) | |
| | C2 | | |
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